

# 1. MISSION AND PURPOSES

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## DESCRIPTION

Mohegan Community College provides a wide range of high quality, affordable educational services to Southeastern Connecticut. The statement of Mission and Institutional Goals, originally defined by the Connecticut General Assembly in Public Act 75-100, has been revised in response to changes in the Community College System. Referred to as "the mission" in this document, the following statement provides the framework for all activities within each division of the College.

### Mission

The purpose of Mohegan Community College is to provide occupational, educational, and cultural enrichment for Southeastern Connecticut in ways that are sensitive to the needs of individuals and responsive to the needs of the community at large. As a community college, Mohegan is committed to serve the lifelong educational needs of a diverse population by making its services accessible in terms of cost, location, and variety of instructional methods. Mohegan strives to educate the whole person in an egalitarian and humane atmosphere, and to effect a positive attitude toward the student's capabilities and potential, as well as to awaken the intellect. Mohegan attempts to develop in students an appreciation for the past and a regard for ethical behavior that will better prepare them for practical life reali-

ties, while being receptive to change and accepting of social responsibility. Mohegan's uniqueness and quality derive from the fundamental democracy of its mission.

### Institutional Goals

1. To offer programs of occupational, vocational, and career education.
2. To provide programs of general study.
3. To offer programs of study transferable to four-year, degree-granting colleges or universities.
4. To provide basic skills instruction.
5. To provide community education, activities, and programs.
6. To provide student support services.
7. To provide self-development activities.

Mohegan's Institutional Plan translates the broad outline of its mission into specific objectives, methods, outcomes, and time lines. This plan drives the curriculum, the professional development activities, the student activities, the College's policies and financial commitments.

### **APPRAISAL**

Mohegan's mission statement reflects the spirit of what we strive to accomplish. When surveyed in 1991, all college personnel saw a direct connection between the statement and the day-to-day activities of the College. We believe that the merger with Thames Valley Technical College will increase the opportunities available

to students at both colleges, thereby enabling us to better accomplish our mission. As the two colleges come together, we will once again review the wording of the mission. The process of rewriting the system's mission, the first step, has already begun.

The staff at Mohegan have a deep commitment to the mission of the College and feel proud of how much we have accomplished despite the unpredictability of state funding.

Mohegan's future depends not on any change in its commitment to its mission and goals (which is unquestionably great), but on the financial commitments the State makes to the College. During these years of budget cutbacks, Mohegan has managed to meet its goals, but it has teetered on the edge of disaster, coming dangerously close to closing programs and eliminating courses required for graduation. Each time one of these possibilities looms, the State rescues the College at the last minute with a small infusion of money. Nevertheless, the College has found it difficult to provide community education and activities, such as access for senior citizens and high school students. Failure to increase funding or, worse, cutbacks in budgets, will force a modification of how the College fulfills its goals. It should also be noted that a mission for the new comprehensive community college is being developed with input from both existing colleges.

## **PROJECTION**

Since its inception, Mohegan has defined itself as a college that responds to community needs. Southeastern Connecticut's

economy has for decades been addicted to defense dollars, which are now being slashed. As there are struggles to redesign its future, Mohegan will continue to refine its role. The merger of Mohegan and Thames Valley State Technical College should mean the delivery of better coordinated educational services to the region. The process of merging personnel, services and mission will be a tremendous challenge to both colleges, the community, and the Board of Trustees.

Mohegan faces the potential for increased demand for occupational, degree, and certificate programs to meet retraining needs in the area's changing economy. As a result, the College will need to perform a careful analysis of course offerings, develop appropriate non-credit programs, and change the utilization of its fiscal and human resources.

Mohegan is also likely to experience increased demand for programs that transfer to four-year institutions. This will occur because of increasing costs at residential colleges and because displaced workers recognize the need for education beyond specific job training.

Given the demand for degree and certificate programs, Mohegan will need to revise its mission statement to reflect the emphasis placed on these programs. Our registration procedures currently give priority to students enrolled in a program over those who are taking courses for enrichment; therefore, our mission statement should also reflect our primary role as a comprehensive, post-secondary institution.